

PERISCOPE

STATINTL

Trying Harder to Find a No. 2 Spook

Vice Adm. Bobby R. Inman, who had been favored to become deputy director of the CIA under William Casey, has told members of the Reagan transition team that he doesn't want the job. Inman's withdrawal is considered a serious loss; head of the National Security Agency since 1977, he has won a reputation as a bright star in the U.S. intelligence community. Inman, 49, wants to retire from the Navy and make money in the corporate world. He is reluctant to become a second-in-command and is particularly aware of frustrations experienced by other military men in the No. 2 post at the CIA. At least five candidates, including three retired generals, are in the running for the job that Inman rejected.